



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR REED

FROM: Councilmember Kansan Chu

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 25, 2011

Approved

Date

5/25/11

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Park Ranger Program

Amount of City Funding Required: \$654,035

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) General Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

Extend funding for the Park Ranger Program through June 30, 2012 and direct the City Manager to explore grant funding opportunities in addition to other revenue generating opportunities to support the Park Ranger Program starting in Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

The Park Ranger Program provides an invaluable service to the residents in the City of San José. Park Rangers respond to both emergency and non-urgency calls for service and provide assistance in the City's regional parks and trail systems. The reduction to the Parks Ranger staffing will increase the call for service to the Police Department in response to criminal or anti-social activities at the City's regional parks and trails. The Police Department will also be impacted during Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and response to calls for services will be impacted severely. The reduction in staffing will force the Park Ranger Program from a proactive model to a reactive model and place the financial burden of the services onto other departments and agencies. Reduction to the program may also limit the public's ability to seek non-urgent assistance in the City's regional parks, resulting in lower satisfaction levels and increased complaints.

In addition to responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for service, Park Rangers are often seen as the face of the city and provide a wide range of other services including: law enforcement, medial, fire, graffiti abatement, trash pick-up, animal services, and parking enforcement. Park Rangers also supervise fee collection as well as manage and supervise volunteers.

The City Manager is directed to explore grant funding opportunities through the Water Resource Board, FEMA, and other State and Federal government agencies to support the Park Ranger Program starting in Fiscal Year 2012-2013. In addition, the City Manager is also directed to explore additional revenue generating opportunities such as increasing the parking fee and considering extending picnic reservations of \$235 per day at regional parks. This recommendation will alleviate impacts to the General Fund while ensuring that San José's parks can continue to be used safely by our residents.

Funding Source

Program/Project Title: Re-budget of Council General Funds

Amount of City Funding Change: \$654,035

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) General Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

Extending the funding for the Park Ranger Program through June 30, 2012 will ensure the safety of our residents at the City's regional parks and trail systems while we explore grant funding opportunities to support the program.

Department or Organization: Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services

Department or Organization Contact (Please list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation.)

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This change is:

 X One-time Ongoing

The City Service Area to which the change best relates:

- ☐ Community and Economic Development Services
- ☐ Environmental and Utility Services
- ☒ Neighborhood Services
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Strategic Support
- ☐ Transportation and Aviation Services